

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
/104 W

-----022133 070737Z /21

R 061957Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4142
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC AND USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSIES

E.O.11652: N.A.
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: ETUC-SPONSORED "EUROSTRIKE" APRIL 5: SPAIN

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REF: MADRID 3571

1. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, SPANISH RESPONSE TO WHAT
LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN REFERRING TO AS THE APRIL 5
"EUROSTRIKE" WAS EVALUATED ACCORDING TO THE
OBSERVER'S POLITICAL VIEWPOINT. THUS, THE TRADE
UNIONS (SOCIALIST UGT AND COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CC.OO.)

CLAIMED THAT 4 MILLION WORKERS (OR ROUGHLY HALF OF THE INDUSTRIAL LABOR FORCE) HEEDED THE CALL FOR NATIONWIDE ONE-HOUR STOPPAGES, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DECLARED THAT PARTICIPATION WAS "SCARCE" AND THAT IN MOST PROVINCES THE "WORKERS ACTION DAY" AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT HAD LITTLE REPERCUSSION. PERHAPS THE MOST ACCURATE DESCRIPTION WOULD BE THAT THE RESPONSE WAS IRREGULAR ALTHOUGH QUITE GENERALIZED. THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF MADRID AND BARCELONA (72 PARTICIPATION IN CATALAN CAPITAL) WERE MOST AFFECTED, PARTICULARLY THE FIELDS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, METAL, AND CONSTRUCTION. THERE WERE NO SERIOUS PUBLIC ORDER INCIDENTS REPORTED ANYWHERE.

2. TO MARK THE OCCASION, UGT SECGEN NICOLAS REDONDO AND CC.OO. SECGEN MARCELINO CAMACHO (WHO, INCIDENTALLY, ARE BOTH DEPUTIES) CALLED ON CORTES (PARLIAMENT) PRESIDENT ANTONIO HERNANDEZ GIL TO PRESENT A MEMORANDUM ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN SPAIN. WHILE THE SPANISH MINISTER OF LABOR DECLARED APRIL 5 THAT THE FIGURE OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED STOOD AT 722,000 (5.6), IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE TRUE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE IS PROBABLY CLOSER TO 1.3 MILLION.

3. AMCONSULS BARCELONA, BILBAO, AND SEVILLA COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS REGARDING THEIR AREAS. A) BARCELONA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPATION QUITE EFFECTIVE BUT LITTLE DISRUPTION. PUBLIC TRANSPORT SECTOR STOPPAGES MOST NOTICEABLE, FOLLOWED BY METAL INDUSTRY AND BANKS. B) BILBAO. LITTLE INTEREST AND STOPPAGES HARDLY NOTICED WITH EXCEPTION METAL FIELD WHICH HAD 70 PERCENT PARTICIPATION. A SMALL DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE DURING THE EVENING OF APRIL 5. C) SEVILLA. ALTHOUGH INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION RAN FAIRLY HIGH IN SEVILLA PROVINCE, THERE WERE NO

DISRUPTIONS AS SUCH AND ATMOSPHERE WAS NORMAL. SOME DEPARTMENT STORES OBSERVED ONE-H-HOUR STOPPAGES, OTHERS DID NOT. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE REPORTED ANYWHERE IN ANDALUSIA. WITH RESPECT TO RENFE RAIL TRAFFIC, SOME TRAINS APPARENTLY STOPPED FOR A FEW MINUTES HERE AND THERE, AND THEN WENT ON TO THEIR DESTINATIONS.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH "EUROSTRIKE" IN SPAIN CAN PROBABLY NOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS EITHER SUCCESS OR FAILURE, IT DID RECEIVE EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE AND THUS SERVED TO PUBLICIZE ETUC EFFORTS TO COMBAT EUROPEAN UNEMPLOYMENT. STABLER

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